

A Quarterly Publication for Community Action Partnership for the County of San Bernardino

Community Action Voice



CAPSBC HOSTS "A HOLLY JOLLY" HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



Adults and children alike are amazed by a talented Balloon Artist



Face painting was an event highlight enjoyed by many.



CAPSBC Board Member **Dorothy Grant** enjoys a family moment at this year's celebration.



CAPSBC CEO **Patricia Nickols** congratulates the San Bernardino High School Dance Ensemble for their participation at this year's annual holiday event.

By Carolyn Debevec Program Manager II

On December 14, 2007, CAPSBC hosted its eighteenth annual Holiday Celebration for Low-Income and Homeless Children. This year's event was held at the National Orange Show Dome from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Approximately 280 people attended, including **179 children, 47 parents, 52 CAPSBC staff and 2 board members.**

The children and their families enjoyed a buffet of pizza, hot dogs, nachos, cupcakes, and hot chocolate, and laughed as they made arts and crafts together.

They also had beautiful "tattoos" painted by a face painting artist, and were given amazing balloon creations by a balloon artist.

Door prize drawings occurred throughout the evening, and more prizes were won in a dance contest that was fun for everyone.

At the magic hour "Santa" arrived in a fire engine with sirens and the children all flocked to greet him. At the close of the evening, each family was provided with a box of food and toys for all the children.

The happy faces of the children made the event well worth the effort, and CAPSBC would like to thank all of our partners who helped to make it possible.



CAPSBC CEO **Patricia Nickols** greets a smiling child at our 18th Annual Holiday Celebration for Low-Income and Homeless Children.

We acknowledge and thank:

Citizens Business Bank, Kraft Foods, A Foundation for Kids, Community Bank of Redlands, Morgan and Franz, the San Bernardino Police Department, the San Bernardino Fire Department #10, Loma Linda Children's Hospital, Arrowhead United Way, and all of our volunteers.

Thank you for helping to make this joyous occasion possible!

Footnote: In addition to the children served at the holiday event, CAPSBC also distributed toys to several agencies in the community, serving a grand total of 608 children during the Christmas season.

Inside this issue:

CAP 18th Annual Christmas Celebration	1
Message From The CEO	2
CAPSBC Responds to Wildfires	3
Mandatory Supervisory Staff Training	3
CAPSBC Food Bank Facing Food Shortage	4
Solar Water Heater Installation	5
Summer Camp Fun 07	6
Are You "TAX-WISE" ?	6
Funding Update	7

"Working in partnership with the San Bernardino County communities to support low-income residents in achieving self-



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The third and fourth quarters of 2007 are now history, and CAPSBC is beginning a brand new year of service. The second half of 2007 was extremely busy for CAPSBC, as we worked to implement new projects, respond to community needs, and access new funding opportunities.

CAPSBC welcomed the community to its new headquarters by hosting an Open House with the theme "A New Beginning for Community Action" on September 13, 2007. More than 300 visitors attended the event which was held in the parking lot of CAPSBC's new headquarters at 696 S. Tiptecanoe Avenue.

In October, 2007, CAPSBC responded to the wildfire disasters by rallying to be the "Go To" agency that helped hundreds of evacuees from mountain communities with their most basic needs of shelter, clothing, gasoline, and food. CAPSBC was on hand daily at the Fire Emergency Local Assistance Center (FELAC), and also saw fire victims in our offices at Tiptecanoe Avenue.

The last two quarters brought good news to CAPSBC in terms of successful funding applications. On June 15, 2007, for the fourteenth consecutive year, CAPSBC submitted an application for homeless assistance funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of the San Bernardino County Continuum of Care.

On December 21, 2007, HUD announced an award in the amount of \$7,288,774 for thirteen projects. This brings the total funding for the San Bernardino County Continuum of Care to \$46,667,943 since 1997. A great way to end the year! Also on June 15, 2007, CAPSBC submitted an application in the amount of \$253,256 to the Office of Community Services (OCS) for the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program. On September 24, 2007, CAPSBC received notice that our application was successful. IDA is an asset building program in which participants save towards one of three asset goals: home ownership; post secondary education; or starting or expanding a small business. Participant savings, up to \$2,000, are matched 2 to 1 by the IDA, meaning that participants will have \$6,000 by the time they reach their goal.

With help from our community partners and donors, CAPSBC distributed toys and gifts to 526 low-income children during the Christmas season. CAPSBC also responded to special requests from community partners for families that were experiencing severe emergency circumstances.

As we look to 2008, we know that the issues of poverty and homelessness still loom before us. We are confident that our team of dedicated staff are up to the challenge, and we look forward to new progress and success in the new year.

CAPSBC Board of Directors

Dorothy Grant
Representative of the Poor-District 2

Nancy Ruth White
Representative of the Poor-District 3

Wytske Visser
Representative of the Poor-District 4

Al Twine-Chair
Representative of the Poor-District 5

Michael Gallo
Private Representative

Dr. Jean Peacock
Private Representative

VACANT Representative of the Poor-District 1

VACANT Private Representative

Jim Bookhout
Private Representative

Reverend David Kalke
Private Representative

Lorraine Velarde
Public Representative

Frank Stallworth
Public Representative

Josie Gonzales
Public Representative

Eladio "Eddie" Garcia
Public Representative

Juan Lopez
Public Representative

MANDATORY SUPERVISORY STAFF TRAINING CONDUCTED AT CAPSBC

By Charles Adams Jr., Deputy Director



Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County strives to give its employees the necessary training and tools to perform their jobs efficiently. On September 14, 2007, nineteen CAPSBC supervisors participated in training on Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and other important areas of supervision.

The training was conducted in the Energy, Education, and Environmental Services Program training center by Mr. John Polson, Esq., Fisher & Phillips, LLP. This type of supervisory training is required by law to be conducted every two years.

CAPSBC Responds to Wildfire Disaster

By Carolyn Debevec, Program Manager II

When wildfires hit the Mountain communities in late October 2007, CAPSBC responded quickly. The County organized the Fire Emergency Local Assistance Center (FELAC) at the National Orange Show Dome, and CAPSBC joined the Red Cross, FEMA, Children's Fund, Transitional Assistance Department, Dept. of Behavioral Health, the Salvation Army, Small Business Administration, and many other agencies in sending staff to assist at the Center, sometimes 12 hours a day. CAPSBC provided gasoline cards, Target and WalMart cards, bus passes, and motel vouchers for temporary shelter.

CAPSBC's Energy, Education, and Environmental Services (EEES) Program also assisted eligible households under the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). After the FELAC closed, fire victims were able to obtain services, including rental assistance, at CAPSBC's offices. It is estimated that CAPSBC staff logged more than 150 hours at the Fire Emergency Local Assistance Center, and assisted approximately 952 fire victims. Fire victims are still able to be assisted at CAPSBC's offices until April 2008, as long as funds are available. ■



CAPSBC FOOD BANK FACING FOOD SHORTAGE

By Herman Pena, Program Manager II

For 24 years the CAPSBC Food Bank has supplied food to needy families struggling to put food on their tables. We have stocked the shelves of hundreds of food pantries, provided food to a large network of soup kitchens, and regularly distributed food to thousands of needy families and individuals through our countywide food distribution network. Since 1983, CAPSBC's Food Bank has distributed over 100 million pounds of food valued at over 95 million dollars, "free of charge" directly to the needy in San Bernardino County. But things look bleak right now, not just for CAPSBC's food bank, but for many other providers of emergency food nationwide.

Foodlinks America, which researches food issues and provides news and legislative updates to emergency food providers and community nutrition projects, reports that the problem of diminishing emergency food supplies is having a significant impact on most providers of emergency food, not only in California, but nationwide.

The main problem, they explain, "is a decline in the amount of federal emergency food available to federal nutrition programs, a drastic decline in bonus commodities, and flat or decreasing donations from the private sector." In California, the amount of emergency food available to the emergency food assistance program (EFAP) has been declining since 2001, while the number of eligible needy people has been increasing.

In 2001 California received 85 million pounds of food for the emergency food assistance program to assist more than 3 million people. By 2006, the EFAP emergency food had decreased to 57 million pounds and 2007 experienced further declines. As a result, eligible needy people are receiving less food and less variety.



During the past several years, CAPSBC's Food Bank has supplemented thousands of holiday food baskets through a wide network of charitable non-profit agencies during the holiday season. Last year CAPSBC provided 236,543 pounds of food to supplement 12,309 holiday baskets during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

This year we were able to provide only 1,573. But there is hope on the horizon. More local businesses are becoming involved and joining our efforts in fighting hunger. The 2007 Farm Bill contains provisions for significant fund increases for federal food programs and includes increases in mandatory spending for EFAP commodities from \$140 million to \$240 million annually. Hopefully new legislation at the Federal and State levels will bring positive change.

In the meantime, CAPSBC will continue to look at ways to expand its efforts to fight hunger in San Bernardino County.





SOLAR WATER HEATER INTALLATION

By Bill Warren, EEES Manager

On July 13, 2007 an appliance crew from CAPSBC's Energy, Education, and Environmental Services (EEES) Program installed a Solar Water Heating System in a customer's home. This was the second system installed in the country as part of a pilot project to determine the energy efficiency of solar water heating systems. It was installed in a mobile home in Hesperia that currently had an electric water heater.

Previously, in October of 2006, CAPSBC installed a system in a single family home in Rialto that had a natural gas heater. In that system a separate tank was installed where the hot water supplied from the solar panels was stored and the gas water heater was used as a back up. With an electric water heater, the system is connected directly to the water heater and it only uses energy to heat the water when there is not enough sunshine to support the temperature setting.

The customer's gas bill in Rialto has realized a natural gas therm savings anywhere from 15% to 25% per month. The kilowatt savings from the customer with the electric system is realizing an early savings of 43%. We will continue to monitor to determine ongoing savings to the customer.



“As CAPSBC moves forward in the energy conservation field, we are looking forward to being involved with solar technology and any other alternative energy sources”. Bill Warren, EEES Manager

SUMMER CAMP FUN 2007

By Renee Wilson, Program Coordinator II



During August 6-10, 2007, CAPSBC's Family Development Program sent 40 low-income children to beautiful Camp Nawakwa in the San Bernardino Mountains for 5 days and 4 nights of camping fun. Camp Nawakwa is located in the San Bernardino Forest's Barton Flats area at an elevation of 6,860 feet. The beautifully wooded site is adjacent to the Mount San Gorgonio wilderness areas. Since 1947, it has been owned and operated by the Mt. San Antonio Council which endorses the traditional belief that the outdoors is an exciting place to be enjoyed and respected.

All the children who participated received a flashlight, sleeping bag and backpack – *necessities for their week of adventure!* Camp Nawakwa provided the children with a wealth of activities such as swimming, hiking, canoeing, arts and crafts, archery, and wall climbing. The children could also take nature walks, play games, and cook outdoors.

Children from the Family Development case management programs and Operation Phoenix made new friends and had lots of fun! Some wrote letters expressing their gratitude. The Summer Camp program is made possible each year through a grant from the L.A. Times/McCormick-Tribune Foundation, combined with CAPSBC's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding.

CAPSBC Gearing Up for Tax Season

By Carolyn Debevec, Program Manager II

Community Action Partnership will operate a volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) site to offer free tax preparation services for the 2008 tax season. The service will be offered at no cost for taxpayers with incomes below \$38,000, to assist them in claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Based on income and family size, taxpayers may receive as much as \$4,716 from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Taxpayers may also qualify for other tax credits, including the Child Tax Credit which can reduce tax liability by up to \$1,000 per child. **The VITA site will be at: Community Action Partnership, 696 S. Tippecanoe Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92408 and will operate Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.**

For more information, call CAPSBC offices at (909) 723-1560 or (909) 723-1568.



Funding Updates

By Gerald Brown, Development Director



CAPSBC's IDA Program receives a \$10,000 investment from Union Bank

What a way to end the year! On December 21, 2007, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced an award in the amount of \$7,288,774 for thirteen homeless projects. The funding was the result of a successful application for homeless assistance funding submitted on behalf of the San Bernardino County Continuum of Care on June 15, 2007. This represents the fourteenth consecutive year that CAPSBC has prepared the application, and it brings the total funding for the San Bernardino County Continuum of Care to \$46,667,943 since 1997.

On September 24, 2007, CAPSBC received notice of a grant in the amount of \$253,256 for the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program. CAPSBC submitted an application to the Office of Community Services Assets for Independence (AFI) program on June 15, 2007, and was one of 66 successful applicants nationwide.

IDA is an asset building program in which participants save towards one of three asset goals: home ownership; post-secondary education; or starting or expanding a small business. Participant savings, up to \$2,000, are matched 2 to 1 by the IDA, giving participants a total of \$6,000 by the time they reach their goal. CAPSBC also received a generous \$10,000 investment in the IDA program by Union Bank, which has long supported the program. Support from the private sector is key to the success of the IDA program.

Overall, 2007 fundraising activities netted CAPSBC a total of \$463,137 in new contracts, grants, special purpose and unrestricted funds.

Fun Corner



CAPSBC PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

- **ADMINISTRATION:**
(909) 723-1510
- **FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM:**
(909) 723-1560
- **CAPSBC FOOD BANK:**
(909) 723-1580
- **EEES**
(909) 723-1620
- **INLAND EMPIRE INDIVIDUAL
DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS (IEDA):**
(909) 723-1570

CLOSING COMMENT



IDA graduate Alma Martinez receives a draw-down check after being the 8th participant to complete the CAPSBC IE.IDA “Productive Assets” program.

©2008

All Rights Reserved.

Published Quarterly by:

Community Action Partnership of
San Bernardino County
696 S. Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, Ca 92415
(909) 723-1500

Chief Executive Officer:
Patricia L. Nickols

Editorial Team
Head Editor: Carolyn Debevec
Graphic Layout: Daryl Eaton

We're On The Web
www.sbcounty.gov/capsbc



696 S. Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92415-0610
www.sbcounty.gov/capsbc

NONPROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE

PAID

SAN BERNARDINO CA

PERMIT NO 2815



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, Improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.
We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.